

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

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148SECOND NIGHTLEAD INTELLIGENCE

BY RANJIT DE SILVA

WASHINGTON, MAY 10, REUTER - THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) SHOULD NOT BE PRECLUDED FROM USING CERTAIN PART-TIME JOURNALISTS IN ITS SECRET OPERATIONS, CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH SAID TODAY.

MR. BUSH SAID THE AGENCY WOULD WELCOME "STRINGERS" -- PART-TIME JOURNALISTS -- WHO WISHED TO COOPERATE WITH THE AGENCY BUT REITERATED THAT THE CIA WOULD NOT USE FULL-TIME ACCREDITED REPORTERS WORKING FOR U.S. NEWS ORGANIZATIONS. THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, IN A MASSIVE REPORT ISSUED LAST WEEK, CHARGED THAT THE CIA USED JOURNALISTS AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD AS PART OF ITS FAR-FLUNG SPY NETWORK.

AS ONE OF ITS FIRST OFFICIAL ACTS AFTER TAKING OVER AS CIA DIRECTOR EARLIER THIS YEAR, MR. BUSH ANNOUNCED THE AGENCY WOULD NOT IN THE FUTURE USE FULL-TIME REPORTERS WORKING FOR U.S. NEWS ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CIA INFLUENCING AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION.

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HE SAID HE ISSUED THE POLICY DIRECTIVE "TO REMOVE A GENUINE CLOUD" OF SUSPICION HANGING OVER THE JOURNALISTIC PROFESSION FOLLOWING RELEASE OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

THE CIA DIRECTOR ADDED THAT HE SUPPORTED GREATER CONGRESSIONAL SUPERVISION OF THE AGENCY; BUT SAID CERTAIN PROPOSALS PENDING IN THE SENATE WERE TOO STRONG AND COULD DAMAGE THE CIA'S EFFECTIVENESS OVERSEAS.

THE SENATE BEGINS...2ND GRAF R573E

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